

Message Text

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ACTION SPTA-02

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SUBJECT: HIGHLIGHTS OF 450TH PRC MEETING, AUGUST 16, 1978

1. CEMETERY - AMBASSADOR JORDEN DESCRIBED THE RECENT CEMETERY DISCUSSIONS AS SATISFACTORY, NOTING THAT MR. LOPEZ-GUEVARA AND THE U.S. TEAM HAD REACHED SUBSTANTIAL AGREEMENT BUT THAT WE WOULD NOT KNOW FOR SURE OF FINAL AGREEMENT BY PANAMA UNTIL AFTER LOPEZ-GUEVARA'S RETURN FROM ABROAD ON 22 AUGUST. GOVERNOR PARFITT ADVISED THAT HE BELIEVED THE INTERNAL U.S. POSITIONS ON THE CEMETERY PROBLEM HAD BEEN RESOLVED.

2. DISCUSSIONS WITH EDWIN FABREGA - AMBASSADOR JORDEN SPOKE BRIEFLY OF HIS CONVERSATION WITH FABREGA IN WHICH THE GENERAL SUBJECT OF ORGANIZATION FOR TREATY IMPLEMENTATION WAS DISCUSSED. HE CHARACTERIZED THE DISCUSSIONS AS OPEN AND USEFUL. THE GOVERNOR EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH HIS RECENT DISCUSSIONS WITH MR. FABREGA WHO ADVISED THAT HE HOPED TO HAVE HIS SUBCOMMITTEES ALL NOMINATED AND BRIEFED BY THE END OF THE MONTH. THE GOVERNOR SAID THAT HE WAS INVITED TO A DINNER TO BE GIVEN BY MR. FABREGA FOR ABOUT 20 PANCANAL PEOPLE AND A GROUP OF PANAMANIAN
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COUNTERPARTS. HE EXPRESSED THE BELIEF THAT THIS WAS AN ENCOURAGING SIGN OF A DEVELOPING RELATIONSHIP. AMBASSADOR JORDEN, REFERRING BACK TO THE FORMATION OF PANAMANIAN SUBCOMMITTEES, QUESTIONED THE VALUE AND EFFICACY OF THE SYSTEM OF ADVISERS TO THE SUBCOMMITTEES FROM THE OUTSIDE (I.E., LAWYERS, EDUCATORS, STUDENTS, ETC.). GOVERNOR PARFITT SAID THAT FABREGA RECOGNIZES

THIS PROBLEM AND BELIEVES HE CAN HANDLE IT PARTLY BY NOT INCLUDING ADVISERS IN JOINT SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS.

3. PRIVILEGES FOR EMBASSY AND OTHER USG PERSONNEL - AMBASSADOR JORDEN NOTED THAT NO ACTION HAD BEEN TAKEN WITH THE PANAMANIAN BECAUSE OF USG POSITION HAD NOT YET BEEN WORKED OUT IN WASHINGTON.

4. TRANSFER OF PROPERTY - GOVERNOR PARFITT RESTATED HIS VIEW THAT PANCANAL NEEDS A POLICY SOON ON THE TRANSFER OF PROPERTY TO PANAMA - A POLICY WHICH CAN BE CHANGED LATER IF NECESSARY. AMBASSADOR JORDEN SAID THAT THE EMBASSY WOULD BE COMMENTING SOON ON THE TRANSFER OF PROPERTY ISSUE AFTER RECEIVING COPIES OF THE VAKY AND COOPER LETTERS DEALING WITH THIS MATTER. GOVERNOR PARFITT ADVISED THAT HE HAD COPIES OF THESE LETTERS.

5. CANAL COMPANY BOARD MEETING - GOVERNOR PARFITT ANNOUNCED THAT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY PLANNED TO HOLD THE NEXT BOARD MEETING IN PANAMA ON OCTOBER 26-27 IF THE SCHEDULE CAN BE ARRANGED.

6. GAO INVESTIGATION - GOVERNOR PARFITT WAS INFORMALLY ADVISED THAT GAO WILL BE LOOKING INTO MILITARY AND PANCANAL ACTIVITIES WHICH HAVE BEEN CHARACTERIZED AS "PRE-IMPLEMENTATION." ACCORDING TO GAO THE REQUEST FOR THIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INVESTIGATION ORIGINATED WITH CONGRESSMAN GEORGE HANSEN.

7. SQUATTERS - GENERAL TANGUY EXPRESSED SOUTHCOM'S CONCERN WITH THE EXTENT AND IMPACT OF THE ENCROACHMENT OF SQUATTERS IN RANGE AND TRAINING AREAS. GEN. TANGUY STATED THAT THE CINC FEELS STRONGLY THAT WE NEED A PLAN DEVELOPED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO RESOLVE THE SQUATTER PROBLEM. AFTER A BRIEFING BY COL. GORDON, J-3 SOUTHCOM, ON THE LOCATION AND TYPES OF SQUATTERS, AMBASSADOR JORDEN SAID THAT ALL RESPONSIBLE PANAMANIAN WITH WHOM HE HAD DISCUSSED THE PROBLEM HAVE SAID THAT THE PANAMANIAN WANT TO HANDLE THE PROBLEM THEMSELVES. HE FURTHER NOTED THESE SAME PERSONS WERE WELL AWARE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF THE SQUATTER PROBLEM. GOVERNOR PARFITT SAID THAT THE ENVIRONMENTAL SUBCOMMITTEE HAS DEVELOPED A PLAN THAT IF STARTED IN OCTOBER COULD PREVENT FURTHER ENCROACHMENT BUT WOULD NOT NECESSARILY REMOVE SQUATTERS ALREADY ON SITE. AMBASSADOR JORDEN SAID HE WOULD BE RAISING THE ISSUE WITH APPROPRIATE PANAMANIAN OFFICIALS DURING THE NEXT WEEK. JORDEN

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